

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 /097 W  
-----053671 260119Z /65

R 251422Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8716  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DASMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWIAT  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
EMBASSY TUNIS 2050  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14159

E.O. QYTWG GDS  
TAGS: EG LY MOPS  
SUBJ: PRISONER EXCHANGE

1. AUGUST 25 PRESS REPORTS EGYPT AND LIBYA, PREVIOUS DAY,  
EXCHANGED PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING RECENT FIGHTING.  
TURNOVER TOOK PLACE ON NORTHERN BORDER. NO INDICATION  
OF NUMBERS INVOLVED, BUT IT APPEARS FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS  
THAT ALL, OR VIRTUALLY ALL, OF THOSE DETAINED HAVE  
NOW BEEN FREED. PREVIOUS STATEMENTS HAVE SUGGESTED  
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NUMBER OF DETAINEES BOTH SIDES NOT HIGH, TOTAL PROBABLY UNDER 100.

2. ADDITIONALLY, EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN OFFICIALS ARE  
SCHEDULED TO MEET IN SOLUM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27.  
EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE(S) NOT NAMED BUT PAPERS SAY  
LIBYAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR RCC AFFAIRS TAHA SHARIF. (EMBASSY PRESS CONTACT TELLS

US EGYPTIAN SIDE WILL BE LED BY SENIOR INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICIAL.)

3. PAPERS INDICATED PRISONER EXCHANGE AND SATURDAY'S  
MEETING ARRANGED BY PERIPATETIC PLO LEADER YASSIR  
ARAFAT WHO RETURNED TO EGYPT AUGUST 24 FOLLOWING YET  
ANOTHER STOP IN LIBYAN CAPITAL. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS  
NOT THE CASE. FONMIN FAHMY, IN BRIEFING AFRICAN  
AMBASSADORS (CAIRO 14061) REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT PRISONER  
EXCHANGE PART OF PACKAGE DEAL WORKED OUT IN DIRECT  
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND LIBYANS IN  
WHICH INTERMEDIARIES PLAYED NO ROLE.

4. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS; PRESS  
ACCOUNTS VERY BRIEF AND LOW KEYED. QADHAFI NOT MENTIONED.

5. COMMENT: YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS AND SATURDAY'S  
MEETING MAY DEFUSE TO SOME EXTENT CURRENT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CON-  
FRONTATION. THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, RESOLVE BASIC  
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES  
AND WE EXPECT BOTH SIDES TO MAINTAIN RELATIVELY  
HIGH DEGREE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. EGYPTIANS AS YET  
ARE NOT CERTAIN QADHAFI HAS LEARNED LESSON AND WILL BE  
MONITORING LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, AS WELL AS ON JOINT  
BORDER. CLOSELY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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